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**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Board Approves Purchase of New Voting Equipment**

**(Columbus)** The Board of the Franklin County Board of Elections authorized the Director and Deputy Director to work with the Franklin County Commissioners and the Franklin County Prosecutor to complete the terms of agreements between the Franklin County Commissioners and the Secretary of State to facilitate the acquisition of an Election Systems & Software (ES&S) hybrid voting system for Franklin County. The funding for the purchase of a hybrid voting system from ES&S will utilize the \$10,342,779.93 allocated for Franklin County pursuant to Senate Bill 135 and additional funds not to exceed \$2,000,000 to be allocated by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners for additional equipment in 2020.

The process of looking at new voting equipment started back in March of 2017 with five vendors that was paired down to the final two. The vote came after months of demonstrations, hosting “mock elections” and soliciting feedback from the public and stakeholders, including the League of Women Voters and advocates for seniors and people with disabilities. The new equipment is more secure, user-friendly and efficient. It also will provide better services to voters with disabilities, with customization options for audio ballots and font sizes.

The 3,276 touch-screen machines will replace the 4,735 units that were originally purchased in 2006. The county is buying fewer machines because early voting is more popular with the introduction of no-fault absentee voting in Ohio. Additionally, it is expected that many voters will opt for paper ballots, which are scanned by a single machine.

During the next several months, the Board will be rolling out a very aggressive voter education program to familiarize registered voters in the county of the new equipment. For more information on all things related to voting in Franklin County please visit, <http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov>.

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